

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND  
RELATED AGENCIESSUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

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March 15, 2008

The Honorable David Obey  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As you begin drafting the FY2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I am asking your support for the following projects in or near the 7th District of Texas that are of critical importance to the nation. This bill is very important to me and my constituents because I represent the Texas Medical Center, the world's largest medical center. With more than 17 major medical institutions and 5.5 million patient visits each year, the Texas Medical Center's impact on the greater Houston economy exceeds \$13 billion annually. I look forward to working with you to make sure the Texas Medical Center continues to reach its full potential.

1. **M.D. Anderson Cancer Center:** \$250,000 to purchase equipment for the Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy which will produce and test personalized batches of drugs designed to target specific cancer cells for each patient's unique needs.
2. **University of Texas Health Science Center Houston:** \$250,000 to purchase equipment for the Center for Translational Neuroinformatics, a center researching the prevention and treatment of developmental and neurodegenerative diseases including autism, Alzheimer's, and brain injury.
3. **Texas Children's Hospital:** \$200,000 to build out the Neurological Research Institute, the first facility in the United States to use a multidisciplinary research approach to understand the unique issues of a child's brain structure, development patterns, and related diseases.
4. **Harris County Hospital District:** \$150,000 to purchase scopes and peripherals to provide diagnostic and treatment services to indigent patients at Ben Taub Hospital, the District's flagship hospital and one of only two Level 1 Trauma Centers in the Texas Medical Center.
5. **University of Houston:** \$150,000 to purchase equipment and renovate space at the Institute for Molecular Design, which is developing new treatments to control catastrophic diseases such as cancer, stroke and diabetes, as well as trauma.
6. **Texas A&M Health Science Center:** \$70,000 to purchase equipment for Project MEDICS, a training initiative designed to bring the lessons of military medicine into civilian practice and medical preparedness for state and local health providers, departments and hospitals in the event

of a massive, citywide medical emergency including mass casualty management, patient evacuation, weapons of mass destruction, and the deployment of mass medical units.


7. **Houston Baptist University**, \$50,000 to purchase state-of-the-art simulation equipment and provide "real life patient care scenarios" for the nursing skills lab, in order to increase the number of students trained in nursing each year.

You will also have my support for any increase you can **provide above and beyond the President's budget request for the National Institutes of Health**, as it is truly the nation's health insurance policy for the future.

Should your office need any additional information, please contact Alicia Lee at 6-9175.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,



John Culberson  
Member of Congress